



NATURE CENTER SITES/FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS FOR WETLANDS EDUCATION IN DELAWARE

UP-STATE PROGRAMS

Brandywine Creek State Park offers a diverse assortment of nature programs for school groups of all ages. Fall/spring wetland-related offerings include two 2-hour programs, The Freshwater Marsh (for grades 5-8) and Creek Bed Explorations (for grades 4-8), each featuring water quality testing and aquatic organism sampling. For more information, contact the Nature Center Manager @ (302) 655-5740.

www.destateparks.com/

The **Delaware Nature Society** at Ashland provides over 50 natural history/environmental education programs each season for members, and a variety of field trip programs for K-12 school groups. The latter includes: Aquatic Habitats (for K-3), Marsh Walk (for K-5), Paddling the Dragon (4 hours, grades 7-12), and Delaware Bay Study (3 hours, grades 4-6). A modest per-student fee is charged for these programs. DNS also coordinates the statewide Stream Watch, Soil Watch and Backyard Habitat projects. For information on these programs, call (302) 239-2334. For more information on DNS in general, visit their website at: www.delawarenaturesociety.org

The **Port Penn Interpretive Center** offers unique educational programs that capture the rich history of a small coastal village, and the close relationship of its watermen and residents to the surrounding wetlands and estuary. An interpretive trail that makes its way through wetlands and along the banks of the Delaware River is also available. For more information contact the Nature Center Manager @ (302) 896-2533.

www.destateparks.com/

White Clay Creek State Park offers several field trip and outreach programs for schools, with a special focus on the geology of the Piedmont area. A Streamside Stroll experience, featuring exploration of flood plain plants and animals, is among the highlights. Contact the Nature Center Manager at (302) 368-6560. www.destateparks.com/

DuPont Environmental Education Center The Delaware Nature Society operates the DuPont Environmental Education Center in Wilmington, showcasing where the city, river, and marsh meet. The facility is open to the public year-round and features indoor and outdoor exhibits on water related natural and cultural history topics and a boardwalk that extends into the marsh. For more information relating to programs call (302) 656-1490. www.delawarenaturesociety.org/deec.html

MID-STATE PROGRAMS

The **Aquatic Resources Education (ARE) Center** (east of Smyrna) provides free facilities and programs for day and overnight field experiences on the coastal marshes bordering Delaware Bay. Fishing, canoeing, bird-watching, marsh monitoring, vernal pool studies, and other aquatic education experiences are available. Special, fully-facilitated Eco-Explorers field trip programs, focusing on the tidal salt marsh ecosystem, are offered to 5th grade classes statewide as an extension to their classroom curriculum on Delaware ecosystems. Overnight accommodations at the Center's rustic Mallard Lodge are also available to groups. Teacher in-service workshops and school outreach programs are offered on numerous topics. All programs are free. For more information, contact Gary Kreamer at (302) 653-2883 or Bob Jones at (302) 653-3441. www.dnrec.state.de.us/fw/are1.htm

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge offers a variety of Delaware Estuary field trip experiences at one

of the most popular water bird watching refuges in the country. Programs include: comparative biological and chemical sampling of salt marsh, pond, bay and forest habitats (for grades 4 up), bus/auto tours of the refuge and its wetlands, and an assortment of other wildlife and aquatic education experiences (for all grades). Weekend workshops are offered spring and fall for educators wishing to build their own field trip programs at the refuge. For more information, contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-6872.

www.fws.gov/northeast/bombayhook/

The **Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve** (DNERR) offers a rich assortment of estuarine and wetlands-flavor field programs for schools and the general public. "On-land" programs include: St. Jones Estuary - Past to Present, Insects of the Estuary, and Wetland Walk (for all ages), Estuary Awareness (for grades 2-12), Birdwatching and Migration (for grades 4-12) and Estuary Monitoring (for grades 4-12). Longer (4-5 hours) "on-the-water" experiences are also available for grades 5-12. Various outreach programs are also available. All programs are free. Direct inquiries to Jennifer Holmes at (302) 739-3436.

www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/dnerr/Pages/DelawareNationalEstuarineResearchReserve.aspx

The **Abbott's Mill Nature Center** near Milford provides 28 environmental education programs for pre-K through high school and overnights at Redden State Forest for grades 4-8. Programs in the wetlands domain include (for grades 4-8): Pond Ecology, Beach Ecology and Forest, Field and Swamp. Additionally, AMNC offers Naturalist in Residency programs encompassing two days of classroom visits and one day of field study. Stream ecology and adoption programs are offered to high school students and Stream Watch training is available spring and fall. Program costs are figured on a per-student basis, the amount depending on the program length. For more information contact Jeff Gordon at (302) 422-0847.

www.delawarenaturesociety.org

DOWNSTATE PROGRAMS

The **DuPont Nature Center at Mispillion Harbor Reserve** is located right on Delaware Bay just north of the town of Slaughter Beach and provides a unique window on the hottest spot for horseshoe crab spawning and migratory shorebird concentration in the world. Live cam, interpretive videos and other interactive exhibits further enhance the visitor's experience. Open to the general public/casual visitors year-round. For school trips and other programs, contact Nature Center Manager Dawn Webb at: (302) 422-1329.

www.dupontnaturecenter.org/

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge offers wetlands, waterfowl and wildlife-oriented field experiences and events for educators and school groups at their vast and varied coastal wetlands complex bordering Delaware Bay. For more information contact Education Coordinator Bill Jones at: (302) 684-8419.

www.fws.gov/northeast/primehook/

The **Carmine Environmental Center** at Camp Arrowhead, located on the shores of Rehoboth Bay, is wonderfully equipped with lab stations, aquaria, touch tanks, telescopes and other equipment for field studies. Programs on bay, marsh and woodland habitats are available for groups ages pre-school through adult. A modest fee is charged for trips on a per-student basis. Contact Liz Gordon at (302) 945-0677.

www.camparrowhead.net/environ.htm

The **Center for the Inland Bays** offers a variety of wetland, watershed and estuarine ecology field programs for school children at its scenic 150-acre James Farm Ecological Preserve on Indian River Bay. In addition to the natural amenities, facilities at the Preserve include: a nature trail, bayside beach boardwalk, observation platforms and informational kiosks. For further information, contact the CIB Education & Outreach Coordinator at (302) 645-7325. www.inlandbays.org/

The **College of Marine Studies** (of the University of Delaware at Lewes) offers various in-service

workshops for teachers interested in marine/aquatic education topics. This includes a three-credit (45-hour) Marine and Aquatic Education summer course (open to K-12 educators) and a one-credit (15 hour) winter Middle Level Workshop (for grade 6-8 teachers) on environmental (e.g. watershedecosystem/invasive species) themes. For program information, contact Bill Hall at (302) 645-4253. www.ceoe.udel.edu/

Trap Pond State Park offers "Exploring a Southern Swamp" field trip programs at their scenic Baldcypress Nature Center. This includes: 1-hour pontoon boat tours (for pre-K-adult) or 2-hour canoe trips (for grades 8 and up) exploring the northernmost cypress swamp in the U.S., and a program called "Woods to Wetlands" (for grades 5 and up), involving hands-on comparisons of upland vs. wetland soils and plant life. Costs are on a per-person basis. For further information, contact the Nature Center Manager at (302) 875-5163. www.destateparks.com/

The **Seaside Nature Center** at Cape Henlopen State Park offers a wide array of marine field experiences for school groups of all ages. Teachers can choose from over 25 programs of a seashore flavor, including wetlands-related offerings (grades 3 and up) entitled: Crabby Crustaceans, Salt Marsh Exploration, and Seining the Bay. Costs vary on a per person depending on program length. In addition, the Residential Environmental Education at Cape Henlopen (REECH) program, offers intensive two-night experiences for grades 3-6 students, at \$75/participant (including meals, accommodations and all programs). For more information on any of these programs, contact the Cape's Nature Center Manager @ (302) 645-6852. For more on Delaware State Parks in general, check out their great website at: www.destateparks.com